

**April 16, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Mt. 18:12-14** *What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.* (NIV)

Jesus is the Great Shepherd Who watches over His sheep. Now I would like to challenge you to meditate on this one statement all day today. *“He left the ninety-nine to rescue me.”* When you think of the motivation of the Master, you must be drawn to one obvious conclusion: the LORD must really love me to leave His glory and come to this earth to rescue me. Did I need to be rescued? Oh, absolutely yes! Was He willing to leave the glories of Heaven to come? Of course, He was! Even if it had only been for me, would He have come? There is no doubt! You know how I know this? Because it is my story. It is my rescue story. I was lost in my sin and my selfishness. He looked out upon His sheep and saw that I was wandering on paths I did not know. And He was willing to come and rescue me from me. From my sinful, selfish nature. I can now proclaim this: not only has He bought me with His blood, He has brought me back into a right relationship with Him.

This is the good news wrapped up in one parable. I was lost. I didn't know how to come home. I was in danger from the 'clever wolves' that sought to steal, kill and destroy. But instead, my Master came and found me. He came to give me life, to overflowing abundance. **Luke 19:10** *For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.* (NIV) And He was willing to come rescue you as well. I love the chorus of that old hymn: *“Jesus Paid It All”* by **Elvina M. Hall**: *Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.* He came to rescue me. Say it again: **He came to rescue me**. Now each word: **He**; the King of Kings and LORD of lords. **Came**; left the glory of Heaven and became a man. **To**; His purpose was His love and forgiveness. **Rescue**; to save me from my sin and myself. **Me**. That's how much God loves you! That's how much God loves me!

**Dear LORD, You left the ninety-nine to rescue me. In Jesus Name, Amen**